



Module 2 | What is the Gospel?

“The Gospel is core to everything we do and are as the Church. The Gospel of Jesus is not just the starting point, it is the middle and the end. Ultimately, it’s all about Jesus!”

The Power of the Gospel: Teaches us *how* we’ve been saved.

Lens #1 - Viewed Topically.

God (*eternal, all powerful, creator of everything*)

Sin (*humanity has all chosen self-rule over submission, in relationship, to God*)

Jesus (*God incarnate came to die as a substitute for the penalty of humanity’s sins*)

Faith (*by faith in what Jesus did, not by any effort of our own, we are saved from our sins*)

In this case, the *good news* is that God is completely aware of our sin problem, and in and through the work of Jesus Christ, accepts us AND changes us by the **power** of his Spirit.

But the Good News is even better than that!

1. We have been saved from the penalty of sin (justification),
2. We are being saved from the power of sin (sanctification) and...
3. We will be saved from the presence of sin.

Our justification (by Christ) leads to our sanctification (by the Spirit). That’s our glorification.

The Purpose of the Gospel: Teaches us *why* we've been saved.

Lens #2 - Viewed through the lens of the Story found throughout the Bible.

Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

In this case, the *good news* is that God sent his Son to redeem the world from the affects of sin and create a new humanity. Eventually the whole world will be renewed to the way God originally created it.

1. Which "lens" of the Gospel are you most familiar with... the Power or the Purpose?



Power



Purpose

2. In your ministry, or when you've explained the Gospel to others in the past, which do you tend to focus most on... the Power or the Purpose?

God, in Jesus Christ, has given us both the **message** of reconciliation and the **ministry** of reconciliation. [2 For. 5:17-19]

3. Sometimes we swing between "message" and "ministry", depending on the circumstance or environment we are in. What do you most naturally tend towards: talking about the message of good news and Jesus (proclamation) or serving others as a display of the gospel (demonstration)?

Place an "X" on the line to evaluate, for each situation, where you are most often at on this scale.

With co-workers

Proclamation_____ **Demonstration**

With my neighbors

Proclamation_____ **Demonstration**

With others in my family

Proclamation _____ Demonstration _____

With other Christians

Proclamation _____ Demonstration _____

Insight: Don't just think of not-yet believers in light of this. Remember that even as Christians we need the gospel in all of life. So when we think of both proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel, it is just as important that we consistently do this with each other, in Christ.

4. How might knowing and communicating *both* the Power and the Purpose change your (or others) perspective and motivation toward discipleship and mission?

5. Here are a few questions to ponder and pray over. The answers to these questions will reveal if you are believing in the Power of the Gospel and have let the Gospel give you your Purpose, and set the affections and priorities in your life.

- Who or what determines your worth, significance and security?
- When things don't go as you'd hope, who or what do you turn to first?
- What are you most concerned about losing?
- Who or What do you depend upon most?

Key Takeaways

Action Steps

1. Share the two lenses of the Gospel–Power and Purpose–with at least one other person right away. Maybe teach this to a group of leaders you presently work with, or alongside of.

When specifically will you do this, with who? _____

2. If you are a teacher or preacher in your church, how could you teach or train others in the Power and Purpose of the Gospel?

3. Which of the **7 Pillars of Culture** are you most drawn to engage in a deeper way?
Family, Education, Business, Media/Arts, Healthcare, Government, Service Orgs

How might you begin to “invest” the Gospel into one of these pillars individually, or as a community? *(Be as specific as possible.)*

Additional Notes: